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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

29. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering cooling water to a power plant having condensers, the proper functioning of which require cooling, said method comprising the steps of:

- (i) extending a first pipe group of an open loop geothermal heat exchange system comprising at least one first pipe having a proximal end and a distal end substantially horizontally under the bottom of a water reservoir for a first predetermined distance from the shore of said water reservoir and for a first predetermined depth under the bottom of said water reservoir, said bottom constituting a predominantly sandy substrate;
- (ii) extending a second pipe group of the open loop geothermal heat exchange system comprising at least one second [first] pipe having a proximal end and a distal end substantially horizontally under said bottom of said water reservoir for a second predetermined distance from the shore of said water reservoir and for a second predetermined depth under said bottom of said water reservoir, said second predetermined distance and depth being different from said first predetermined distance and depth ;
- (iii) delivering ground water from under the bottom of said water reservoir to said power plant for cooling said condensers by inducing a low downward velocity gradient over the distances and depths of the first and second pipe groups and creating a negative pressure along the proximal ends of at least one of the first and second pipes sufficient to draw ground water from under the bottom of the water reservoir through said predominantly sandy substrate and into at least one of the first and second pipes through a filtering assembly associated with said first and second pipes and drawing ground water essentially free from planktonic organisms into said at least one of the first and second pipes;
- (iv) cooling said condensers with the delivered cooling water; and
- (v) discharging the cooling water from said power plant into the water reservoir at temperatures substantially preventing detrimental thermal plumes, wherein heat conduction between the supply and discharge water is prevented by the sandy substrate which acts as a natural thermal barrier.